

GRAY DAVIS
GOVERNOR



GRANTLAND JOHNSON
SECRETARY

State of California

Health and Human Services Agency

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: GRANTLAND JOHNSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grantland Johnson".

DATE: APRIL 1, 2003

**SUBJECT: ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR
PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA**

Agency
Departments &
Boards:

Aging

Alcohol and
Drug Programs

Child Support
Services

Community Services
and Development

Developmental
Services

Emergency Medical
Services Authority

Employment
Development
Department

Health Services

Health and
Human Services
Data Center

Managed Risk
Medical Insurance

Mental Health

Rehabilitation

Social Services

Statewide Health
Planning and
Development

Workforce
Investment

I am pleased to present to you the California Health and Human Services Agency's Strategic Plan on "Improving Access to Mental Health Services for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders," as required by SB 639 (Ortiz), Chapter 692 Statutes of 2001.

In preparing this plan, Agency sought input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders to identify issues, provide technical assistance, and to assist us in framing recommendations. Many of those stakeholders served on the SB 639 Taskforce. I would like to recognize and thank all of the individuals and organizations that participated in the plan's development. Your insights and recommendations are clearly reflected in the enclosed document.

This strategic plan identifies barriers; articulates a number of recommendations; and presents some best practices for consideration. Given the major budget shortfall, most of these recommendations must be viewed as long-term strategies. However, some of the best practices identified were undertaken with little or no additional funding; a vision, leadership, and commitment to improving access to care for at-risk older adults with dementia made them a reality.

I hope this report will be helpful to the Legislature in its own strategic planning efforts.

Enclosure